



The State of New Hampshire  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**



**Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner**

February 7, 2007

Representative Naida L. Kaen, Chairman  
House Science, Technology and Energy Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 304  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 295, an act relative to the definition of biomass and biomass fuel**

Dear Chairman Kaen:

The Department of Environmental Services appreciates the opportunity to testify concerning HB 295, which, as amended by the sponsors, seeks to define the terms "biomass" and "eligible biomass fuel." The use of biomass fuels as a renewable energy source is of growing interest in the state as we search for less polluting, non-petroleum based fuels for energy production. It will be important to define, in RSA 125-C, the Air Pollution Control Act, exactly what materials the State of New Hampshire will accept as biomass fuels.

The use of biomass fuels will continue to be subject to other regulations that sufficiently regulate air emissions to ensure that public health and the environment are protected. The bill's proposed definitions of biomass and eligible biomass fuel are intended to be consistent with the Department's support of a ban on the combustion of construction and demolition debris, as proposed in HB 427 and HB 428.

We welcome the opportunity to work with the General Court to provide a framework of laws and regulations that encourages the use of renewable energy sources while ensuring that such activities are environmentally sound. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please feel free to contact me at 271-2958 or Air Resources Division Director Robert Scott at 271-1088.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Burack  
Commissioner

cc: Members of the Science, Technology & Energy Committee  
Rep. Jay Phinizy